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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 /066 W
----------012497 261639Z /45
R 251515Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8249
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAO PAULO 0220

E.0. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BR PGOV
SUBJ: REACTION IN PARANA TO INDICATION OF GEN. FIGUEIREDO FOR PRESIDENT

1. SUMMARY: THE RISING POWER OF THE GOVERNMENT POLITICAL MACHINE TIGHTLY LINKED TO FIGUEIREDO IS THE MOST STRIKING ELEMENT ON THE POLITICAL SCENE IN PARANA. THAT DEVELOPMENT IS MORRORED BY THE OPPOSITION'S DESPAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. ARENA PRESIDENT AFONSO CAMARGO NETTO, PARANA'S LEADING CANDIDATE FOR INDIRECTLY ELECTED SENATOR, TOLD CONGEN OFFS THAT GEISEL HAD CHOSEN FIGUEIREDO, BECAUSE HE COULD MAKE THE SMOOTHEST ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSITION. HE PREDICTED CONTROLLED LIBERALIZATION AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY UNDER FIGUEIREDO. CAMARGO NETTO ALSO EXPLAINED THAT NEARLY ALL DECISIONS RELATING TO MAJOR POLITICAL CANDIDACIES IN PARANA HAD BEEN TAKEN. FORMER GOVERNOR AND PRESENT EDUCATION MINISTER NEY BRAGA WOULD BE GOVERNOR AGAIN; CURRENT GOVERNOR JAYME CANET WOULD EITHER BECOME SENATOR OR RECEIVE AN IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE JOB UNDER FIGUEIREDO; AND PAULO PIMENTEL, FORMER GOVERNOR AND ENEMY OF NEY BRAGA, WOULD BE ALLOWED TO PUT HIS POPULARITY IN THE STATE AT THE SERVICE OF THE PARTY BY RUNNING FOR FEDERAL DEPUTY. AS FOR SENATOR ACCIOLY FILHO,
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WHOSE INDEPENDENT STAND ON THE JUDICIAL REFORM BILL SET THE STAGE FOR GEISEL'S CLOSING OF CONGRESS LAST APRIL, HIS ABILITIES WOULD WELL USED ON THE SUPREME COURT, SHOULD FIGUEIREDO CHOOSE TO NOMINATE HIM. FEDERAL DEPUTY (AND RETIRED GENERAL) ITALO CONTI, WHO WAS A CLASSMATE OF FIGUEIREDO'S, REPEATEDLY REQUESTED THAT CONGEN OFFS TRANSMIT TO WASHINGTON HIS CERTAINITY THAT BRAZILIAN-UNITED STATES RELATIONS WOULD

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IMPROVE UNDER FIGUEIREDO BECAUSE HE HAS A MORE INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK.

3. MDB PRESIDENT EUCLIDES SCALCO SAID THAT THE ARENA IN PARANA WAS ONE OF THE STRONGEST STATE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRY. HE THOUGHT THAT THE PARANA MDB WOULD LOSE SEATS BOTH IN THE FEDERAL CHAMBER AND THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN THE UPCIMING NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. SYMPTOMATICALLY, HIS ANALYSIS OF FIGUEIREDO FOCUSSED ON HIS POSSIBLE MILITARY WEAKNESS DUE TO THE WAY GEISEL HAD CONDUCTED THE SUCCESSION. SCALCO SAID THAT GEISEL HAD BROKEN WITH TWO TRADITIONS ESTABLISHED SINCE 1965; CONSULTING THE MILITARY ON THE NEXT PRESIDENT AND CHOOSING A GENERAL AT THE TOP OF THE MILITARY HIERARCHY. MDB STATE DEPUTY MAURICIO FRUETT SAID THAT FIGUEIREDO WAS, FOR HIM, THE SYMBOL OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. HE DESPAIRED OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR CHANGIN
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THE REGIME IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN LONDRINA, FORMER MAYOR JOSE RICHA, WHO WAS TALKED ABOUT AS A GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE UNDER DIRECT ELECTIONS, WAS TRIMMING HIS SAILS EVEN MORE. INSTEAD OF RISKING A LOSS RUNNING FOR THE SENATE, HE NOW PLANS TO SEEK A SAFE SEAT AS A FEDERAL DEPUTY. MAVERICK MDB SENATOR LEITE CHAVES, ALSO FEELING THE SQUEEZE ON THE OPPOSITION, IS PUBLICLY URGING HIS PARTY TO SUPPORT MAGALHAES PINTO'S DISSIDENT ARENA CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SAOPA00220
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780039-0151
Format: TEL
From: SAO PAULO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780124/aaaaatvb.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3716311
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION IN PARANA TO INDICATION OF GEN. FIGUEIREDO FOR PRESIDENT
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BR, (FIGUEIREDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3c8a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014